

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00672 081123Z

50

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SAM-01 SP-02 INR-07 PM-03

NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /049 W  
----- 064806

R 081053Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2870

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UR, SA, SO

SUBJECT: SAUDI INSPECTION TEAM TO SOMALIA

REF: JIDDA 3197

1. WHILE US INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS AWARE OF NATURE AND MEANING OF SOVIET INSTALLATIONS IN SOMALIA, IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT MERE VISUAL INSPECTION OF BERBERA AREA BY SAUDI OR OTHER FOREIGN OBSERVERS WILL AUTOMATICALLY CONFIRM SOVIET BASE PRESENCE, AT LEAST ON SCALE IMPLIED BY SOME PRESS REPORTS.

2. FROM QUESTIONS PUT TO US BY OUR ARAB DIPLOMATIC OLLEAGUES IN MOGADISCIO, WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES THEY HAVE IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CONCEPTUALIZE SOVIET BASE AT BERBERA. FROM THEIR QUESTIONS, WE ALSO KNOW THAT SOME DIPLOMATS HAVE GROSSLY DISTORTED IDEA OF EXTENT OF SOVIET FACILITIES AND THAT PRESS REPORTS HAVE CONJURED UP AN IMAGE WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN ON SPOT. SOMALIA IS BARREN, EMPTY COUNTRY AND BERBERA IS TORRID BACKWATER PORT. RELEVANCE OF ANY MILITARY INSTALLATION IN BERBERA TENDS TO DIMINISH WHEN OBSERVERS CONFRONTED BY THESE OVERPOWERING PHYSICAL FACTS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00672 081123Z

3. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL LESSONS LEARNED AS RESULT OF VISIT

OF COLUMNISTS EVANS AND NOVAK TO UM QASR IN IRAQ SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND THEIR ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE SOVIET BASE. UNDER IRAQI AUSPICES, ALL THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE WERE TWO FREIGHTERS AT ANCHOR IN A QUIET BACKWATER AND REPORTED QTE NO SIGN OF HEAVY NAVAL STORES, AMMUNITION, SPARE PARTS, GUNS AND OTHER ACCOUTREMENTS OF SOVIET NAVAL BASE UNQTE. WESTERN JOURNALISTS LOOKING FOR SOVIET BASES AND INVITED TO BERBERA UNDER THAT PRETEXT BY GSDR ARE LIKELY TO SEE LITTLE MORE THAN EVANS AND NOVAK SAW AT UM QASR.

4. IN CASE OF SAUDI DELEGATION, HOWEVER, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY BE FULLY BRIEFED -- INCLUDING ALL RELEVANT DETAILS -- PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE, OTHERWISE CONCLUSIONS THEY ARE LIKELY TO DRAW WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE WRONG ONES. SAUDI OBSERVERS MUST KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR, WHERE TO FIND IT AND MUST BE GIVEN FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BY GSDR TO GO WHERE THEY CHOOSE. THEY MUST ALSO BE RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED AND AGGRESSIVE. - THEY SHOULD ALSO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT SOVIET MILITARY AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA AND ON SIAD BEYOND THAT WHICH IS ADDUCIBLE FROM PHYSICAL FACTS.

5. IN SUM, SAG DELEGATION IS GOING TO NEED FULL MILITARY AND POLITICAL BRIEFING -- A BRIEFING WHICH GIVES BENEFIT OF ALL INFORMATION WE HAVE. LACKING THAT AND RESTRICTED IN ANY WAY IN THEIR ACCESS TO SOMALI INSTALLATIONS BY GSDR AUTHORITIES, CONCLUSIONS SAG DELEGATION DRAWS WILL BE FRAGMENTARY AND INCOMPLETE. IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN, THEN WE MIGHT VERY WELL BE LEFT HOLDING BAG.

6. QUESTION OF SIAD'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ACTIONS IMPLIED BY JOINT COMMUNIQUE SUBJECT SEPTTEL.  
HAMRICK

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O:MR. HOGANSON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY BASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MOGADI00672  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750161-0969  
**From:** MOGADISCIO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750570/aaaacImu.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 JIDDA 3197  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAUDI INSPECTION TEAM TO SOMALIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, UR, SA, SO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006